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"Fairford,"
Exmouth,
February 20th, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Exeter Port Health Authority—

Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to present the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1939.

Having regard to the desirability of reducing the number of records to be kept, and of avoiding as far as possible the disclosure of information relating to the movements of ships, this Report is considerably modified from the requirements set out in Memo. 204/S.A., as directed by the Minister.

Table A.

Number Inspected		Number reported defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels reported as having cases of infectious disease on board
By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
118	386	Nil	Nil	1

All Vessels were boarded and inspected by one or other of your Officials, enquiries being made as to the health of the Crews, the general sanitary condition, and the presence or absence of rats.

All Vessels were classified as "Clean" and many as "Very Clean."

Table B has been omitted, according to instructions.

Table C.

Cases of infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	Number of Cases during 1939		No. of Vessels concerned
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Paratyphoid.	2	1	1

Table D.

Cases of infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	Number of Cases during 1939		No. of Vessels concerned
	Passengers.	Crew.	
NIL			

The Paratyphoid cases included the first mate, the Master's wife and her child. The exact nature of the disease, in all three cases, was confirmed by bacteriological examination, and on receipt of this information, I ordered the Master to have the Vessel removed to the mooring station in the Bight, Exmouth. This was carried out on September 18th and the Vessel remained in quarantine until October 11th. Details of disinfection, etc. are given in Mr. Bonham's Report, enclosed herewith.

Rats destroyed during the year.

Table E.

(1) On Vessels.

Jan	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
NONE												

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
						NONE						

FOOD INSPECTION.

(1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925, the Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927. None required.

(2) *Shell-fish.* The Regulations relating to the distribution and sale of Winkles have been rescinded, after an enquiry held by Officials from the Ministry of Health in conjunction with those of the Exeter Port Health Authority.

(3) *Number of Samples of Food examined by :—*

(*a*) Bacteriologist.

Nature of Sample. Result of Examination. Nil.

(*b*) Analyst.

Nature of Sample. Result of Examination. Nil.

PORT OF TOPSHAM.

The Port Health Authority were informed of the results of my periodical visits to Topsham. All Vessels were boarded and inspected by the Sanitary Inspector. No cases of sickness or of insanitary conditions were brought to my notice, and no traces of rats were discovered.

The Annual Report of Inspections in Exeter by Mr. Bonham, Chief Sanitary Inspector, is enclosed herewith.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. BEESLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

30th January, 1940

Dear Sir,

PORT HEALTH INSPECTIONS IN EXETER.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1939.

During 1939 the number of Food Cargoes examined at the Port of Exeter were :—

Sugar	5
Salt Codfish ...	2

Other ships which arrived at Exeter and which were inspected carried cargoes as follows :—

Cement	35
General Cargo ...	10
Coal	18
Fertilizer	6
Petrol	25
Timber	7
Gravel	1
Tanning Material ...	2
Oxide	1
Wheat	7
Oats	4

The food cargoes were in excellent condition generally ; periodic examination being made of the codfish as unloading proceeded. Damaged fish condemned as unmarketable weighed 49 lbs.

Routine inspections were made of all the vessels, and the health of crews inquired into. No rat infestation was discovered, and sanitary conditions were good.

Illness was reported in a Dutch motor vessel that carried phosphates.

The patient—first mate—was diagnosed as a case of para-typhoid and was removed to hospital. There were two subsequent cases which were also moved to hospital. All three recovered. Disinfection and cleansing was carried out in accordance with the Port Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations.

The wharves and warehouses at the Quay and Basin were periodically examined and found to be maintained in good condition.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. BONHAM,
Assistant Officer.

Dr. C. BEESLEY,
Medical Officer of Health,
Exeter Port Health Authority.